From: Casey Keller
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 1:45pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To the Honorable Department of Justice--

It is as a student, a technician, and an end-user that I wish to add my comments
as per the Tunney Act concerning the settlement proposed by the corporation in
question, Microsoft.

Before I begin individually laying out my reasons for my views, I must first
denounce the proposed settlement as a mockery of justice, the institution of the courts,
the welfare of the consumer, and the sensibility of the media and the general public.
We speak of punishment of criminals yet we are prepared to enact a double standards of
rewards for crimes of business.

The practice of the Microsoft Corporation has been established as a violation of
antitrust laws. From the packaging of the Internet Explorer web browser with its
operating system, fully integrate it with the operating system of Windows to its current
methods of furthering the hold on the software industry with Microsoft Office, Windows
Media Player, built-in firewall for XP, .NET system, and the coupling of Microsoft Network
with Windows XP, or its suit over the Windows names. This case began in 1995 and now in
2002 we are willing to settle with a turn of our backs.

I could list piece-by-piece what I view as theft by this Giant. I could
easily attempt to make my case that Microsoft has not produced, in general, a product
solely of its own without building it or modeling it from a product of another company.
Whether it is the windowing system concept (Macintosh), DOS (Caldera),Start Menu (Apple),
Terminal Services (Symantec's pcAnywhere / AT&T Virtual Network Computing), firewall and
multiple logins (unix, Linux iptables/ipchains). I could sit and justify the vantage
that the richest man in the United States built his fortune upon the backs of stolen ideas.
A criminal never brought to trial.

As a student, I am dishearten to see the movements in the university systems to
be Microsoft-centric. Database classes are taught with Access, programs are to be written
with Visual Basic/C++/J++, web design is taught via Frontpage, and the operating system of
choice for labs is Microsoft Windows. At what cost? If you are to look at the per-seat
licensing of Microsoft we are spending fortunes on software at the cost of a broad education.
We learn by the bloated non-standards and hope that we can push in the real world. We fail
to learn systems outside the deal.

As a technician for an internet service provider, I am force to witness first hand
the limiting force of a monopoly. When a call comes in the first generalized question that
comes to the client is, "What version of Windows are you running?", followed by "What version

of Internet Explorer are you running?". Common issues are virii, tcp/ip stack failures, win modem initialization strings, corrupt executables of Windows components. Because Internet Explorer is intergrated with the Windows operating system, the user interface is slower, if Internet Explorer blows up you lose the stability of your system, and users are unable to regress to a previous version or remove the faulty component. Security is negligible, the mail system is a petri dish for virii, and the networking leaves much to be desired. On a day-to-day basis, I have to deal with problems of Windows "forgetting" settings and devices or perpetuating unneeded data in the way of networking addresses. Hardware compatibility is greatly reduced as it as modems are software based ("winmodems"). Internet access setup is hindered by the persistence of MSN (The Microsoft Network) in terms of web browsing, messaging, dial-up networking, and communications compatibility.

As an end-user, I cannot help but to feel that I have been violated. I used in-house networking to share information between my laptop, my sister's computer, and my home system. My laptop is an Apple Powerbook running Mac OS X, my desktop is Redhat Linux 7.2, and my sister's machine is Windows 2000 Professional. I have had to run numerous security updates on Windows 2000 and its predecessor Windows 98. XP, which I had test ran has holes in security large enough to sail the US Navy through. Non-Microsoft programs are "crash-proned" by the operating system. I cannot help to feel that as a consumer I the Warranty of Mercantibility failed to apply toMicrosoft products. I deal with file sharing compatibilities with SMB RPC calls. I feal cheated. The cost is high-way robbery.

In an industry where compatibility is a necessity, Microsoft continues to violate standards in security, networking, programming. Its movement to control the wealth of the industry has damaged the industry and the economy of the United States of America. We cannot pretend that keeping the ingrediants in one pantry allows every one to taste the pie. Unemployment, job cuts, and damages are left in the wake of postponed action.

The proposed settlement is not a punitive settlement, but an extension in guise that fails to be in the best interests of justice, consumers, and the general populace. The "donation" of monopoly software to an area where the monopoly is not in existence is the furtherment of the monopoly. It is the allowing of Park Place and Boardwalk with hotels to reap Community Chest.

On the other hand, I agree with the proposed settlement of Redhat. Let Microsoft purchase the equipment, let another software vendor provide the software. Software that is not terms limited, user agreement stipulated, bug-ridden, security questionable, and compatibility hell. I would further liketo propose the removable of Internet Explorer and Media Player from current and future versions of the Windows OS along with the shutdown of the Microsoft Network. Do not allow one trust for another another. Anything short of this would be unfair when you look at the settlement that prevent AT&T from developing Unix and establishing its lead role in the computer industry.

I apologize that my statements here are more brief than I had intended and may not be as clear and concise as I feel that is needed to set a better light on this blite.

However, in closing I wish to ask that the Department of Justice act as a doctor and treat this case as curable form of the AIDS retrovirus. Medicate it. Prevent it from injecting and taking over new cells. Prevent it from disabling the guards against it. I also wish to ask the the Deparment of Justice to act as a strong Prime Minister. Do not do an appease. Europe settled to give Hitler one victory, but found that one eventually equated to many. Politics and history often meet with business to form one. Apply it.

Sincerely,

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